

Madam Speaker, as the lead Democrat sponsor of H. Res. 1219 I rise in support of this bipartisan resolution expressing support for recognizing the month of September as National Child Awareness Month.

My colleague from California, Congressman *Ken Calvert* and I were pleased to introduce H. Res. 438 because it will raise awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States. This resolution recognizes that these organizations' efforts on behalf of children and youth are critical contributions to the future of our nation.

As we know, September is traditionally back-to-school month, a time when families focus on preparing children for the coming school year. In addition to academic preparation, it is also a time when the American public should be focused on the physical, social and economic well-being of our nation's children.

It is my hope that H. Res. 1219 will encourage more individuals to volunteer for or contribute to causes that help our children.

An enhanced awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations, made possible by this resolution, will assist these organizations' efforts to encourage volunteers to become involved in the lives of the most disadvantaged children in our communities across the country.

I am confident that National Child Awareness Month will serve as a banner that will unite charitable organizations of diverse missions, size, geography and scope to focus on a common goal--improving the lives of our nation's youth.